

# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

*pro bono humani generis*

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Dear Andy

To yours of Nov. 23

Thank you for sending me the social/evol/psychology report. Has Paul Berenson had a hand in this?

I did look particularly at Parts A) and B).

I don't believe as much in hard-wiring as this school does: the human brain is quite unique in its immaturity/plasticity at birth; but I can't discount vestiges of instinctive behavior. While sexual drives are rooted in reproductive strategy, they show remarkable separation in the human. Nor do I see the evidence they claim to be commonplace that the successful warrior has higher Malthusian fitness -- bar the top alpha who claims droit de seigneur.

Even the definition of martial success is very different today; and effective leadership, technical prowess, and team cooperation play a preeminent role.

Nevertheless, I agree that formal celibacy and sexual/mating urges are going to be in conflict with one another; and the price paid has to be measured against the other goals of "good order". The authors might argue that even the restrictions on RHIP that stem from the barring of sexual harassment are going to demotivate ambitions for promotion; and yes other incentives will be needed to compete with the civil economy.

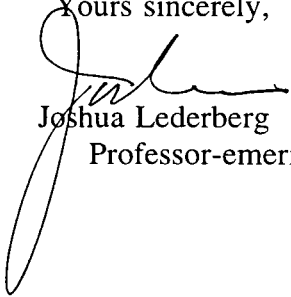
Re part B, I am in much closer agreement; and there are many perils and opportunities for "human enhancement" that we cannot dismiss from increasing knowledge and manipulation of the CNS.

Re ethical oversight on all biomedical experimentation in the DoD -- this perhaps could be broadened to all intramural government agencies -- I had in mind some analogue to the IRB's that work at academic institutions. This should be inter-agency, and perhaps (like intelligence operations reporting) also include some representation from the legislative, perhaps even judicial branches, as well as some public members. Besides other ethical guidelines, compliance with treaty obligations should be on the agenda.

The oversight commission should mainly delegate its substantive work to more local bodies,

but assure they are in place, and also that there is a mailbox for reports of violations.

Yours sincerely,

  
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